IN.DIFFERENCE

...DON'T EXPECT ANYTHING...

MATROYSHKA

One-Shot

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Matryoshka
ANDOU Yuki

I'VE DATED ABOUT FIFTEEN GIRLS IN ALL OF MY NINETEEN YEARS OF LIVING...
BUT I GUESS ...
THAT'S SOMETHING NORMAL... RIGHT?
SFX: GRABS
NINA -!!
WOULDN'T YOU AGREE, MY FRIEND?

..YUURI...
DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE BEEN-
DUMPED AGAIN!
Cafe

SNIFF... NINA, LEND ME YOUR HANDKER-CHIEF WILL YA?
.. I DON'T HAVE ONE ON ME
EXCUSE ME, COULD I PLEASE GET SOME TISSUES HERE?
.....
You're such a great friend
THEN WHAT'S THAT?
SO WHAT HAPPENED THIS TIME?
WHAT DID YOU DO NOW?

IT'S CALLED A "MATRYOSHKA"!
SNEEZE
IT'S A RUSSIAN DOLL AND-
WITHIN EACH DOLL IS ANOTHER ONE...
I GUESS
IT'S CUTE RIGHT? IT'S FASCINATING RIGHT?
YOU'RE GIVING THIS THING TO ME AS A BIRTHDAY PRESENT ?!
YEAH, BUT CHINA-CHAN (GIRLFRIEND) SAID-
WHAT KIND OF BOYFRIEND ARE YOU ?!

AS A BIRTHDAY PRESENT, HUH...
AND CAUSE I REALLY LIKE MATRYO -SHKAS,
WE ENDED UP FIGHT -ING!...
NOW I UNDER -STAND
BUT YOU KNOW,
IT'S SOME -WHAT PITIFUL THAT YOU BROKE UP OVER THIS
IT MAKES YOU THINK THAT IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE YOU'D BE THROUGH WITH EACH OTHER, DOESN'T IT?
THEN AGAIN, IT IS YOU WHO WE'RE TALKING ABOUT YOU'LL FIND ANOTHER GIRLFRIEND IN NO TIME ANYWAY
.....
SNIFFLE

NO, I HAVEN'T.
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO IMPLY?
I'M JUST RELIEVED, I GUESS...
WAIT- I'M NOT TRYING TO IMPLY ANYTHING --
HONE -STLY!
TRUTH IS, I JUST NEVER GAVE THAT ISSUE A THOUGHT TILL NOW..
HAVE YOU EVER HAD A BOY-FRIEND?
.....
SO DON'T --
HEY...
AND WHEN I TELL HER, I JUST ALWAYS SEEM TO BE CALM ABOUT GETTING OVER THEM...
EVEN THOUGH WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...
NINA'S ALWAYS LISTENING TO MY PROBLEMS !!...
Winter's coming.
BUT I GUESS IN THE END,

HEY-
IT'S ALWAYS THANKS TO HER
WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY "YOU'LL FIND ANOTHER GIRLFRIEND IN NO TIME ANYWAY"?
BECAUSE IT SEEMS AS IF YOU'VE ALREADY HEALED FROM THE PREVIOUS ONE
HMMM, LET'S SEE.
DOES THAT MEAN I'M POPU--
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP

DON'T YOU THINK THAT YOU'RE JUST THE TYPE TO FALL IN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT?
PLUS, YOU'RE BAD AT TURNING DOWN PEOPLE.
IT'S A LONG SHOT, BUT
YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY NOT HAVE KNOWN, COULD YOU?

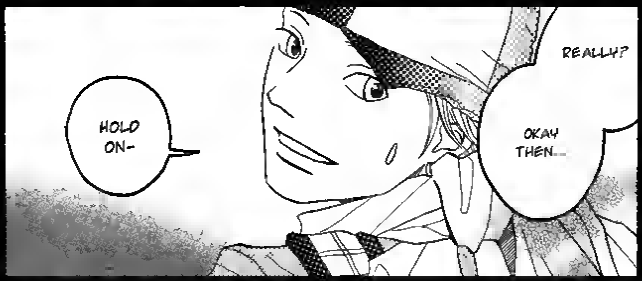
AM I THAT SHALLOW?
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH MY PREFE-RENCE FOR GIRLS?
WHAT EXACTLY AM I NOT DOING RIGHT?
THEN AGAIN, I DO LOVE ALL GIRLS
I SEE.
THAT IN ITSELF IS AMAZING
...HMMM.
BACK THEN...
BUT HASN'T THIS SORT OF THING HAPPENED BEFORE?
YEAH...

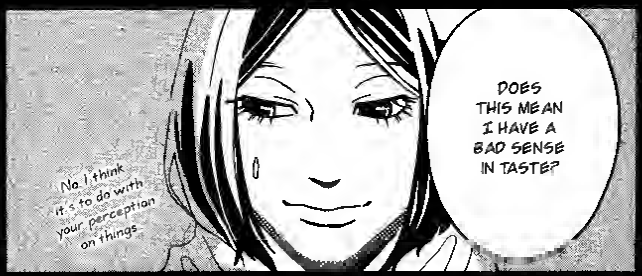
FIFTEEN GIRL-FRIENDS IN NINE-TEEN YEARS.

COME TO THINK OF IT...
PLOP
NINA-!
DOESN'T THAT LOOK AWESOME?! LET'S GO WITH THAT!
WINTER: 17 YEARS OLD.
SURE, BUT YUURI...
YOU'RE GIRL -FRIEND ISN'T A MONK.

OH, RIGHT
BUT DO YOU HAVE TO BE A MONK TO WEAR ONE?
YEAH, PRETTY MUCH.
ACTUALLY --
Never mind.
AH!
I THINK SHE WOULD REALLY WANT THIS SORT OF THING!
IT'S A MAGIC WAND AFTER -ALL! LET'S GET IT!
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOUR GIRLFRIEND WAS TWO YEARS OLDER?
NAH- THREE YEARS OLDER! I THINK SHE'S TWENTY
THEN I THINK IT'S FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY THAT YOU DON'T BUY IT.
ALRIGHT! THAT SWIMSUIT TYPE IS A PERSONAL FAVE!
LET'S GET--
HOLD IT YUURI--!

HAPPY XMAS
HAPPY XMAS
AREN'T WE HERE FOR YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S CHRISTMAS PRESENT?
I THINK IT'S WISE TO PICK ACCORDING TO THE OCCASION...


HOLD ON-
REALLY?
OKAY THEN...


DOES THIS MEAN I HAVE A BAD SENSE IN TASTE?
No, I think it's to do with your perception on things

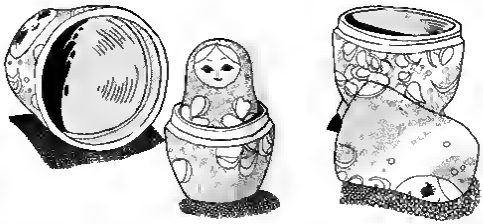
I SEE...
SO THAT'S WHAT IT IS...
...I THINK THAT ANY PRESENT WILL DO...
BUT IT HAS TO BE SOMETHING THAT YOU GAVE A LOT OF THOUGHT INTO
THEY'RE SURE TO BE HAPPY WITH THAT
AND THE FACT THAT IT'S FROM SOMEONE YOU LOVE MAKES IT ALL THE MORE WORTHWHILE

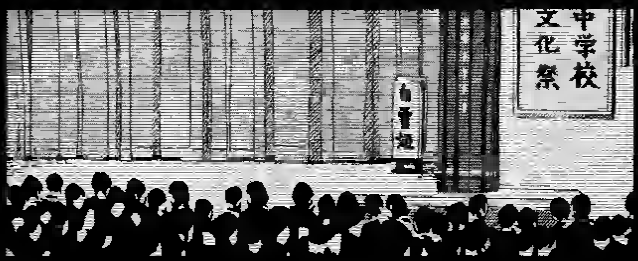
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS...
YEAH, YOU'RE ABSOLU-TELY RIGHT!
YEAH!
I'VE DECIDED ON THIS!
WHAT I LIKE-
SHOULD ALSO BE WHAT MAYUMAYU (GIRLFRIEND) LIKES!
DING DONG
SLAM
NIII~ NAAA ~!!

WHY AREN'T YOU WEARING A KIMONO EVEN THOUGH IT'S NEW YEAR'S DAY?!
WAIT- THAT'S NOT THE POINT! I'VE BEEN DUMPED!!
THAT GIFT DESTROYED OUR RELATIONSHIP!
...I THOUGHT AS MUCH...
CHEER ME UP INSTEAD!
FINE ..

BUT TO ME, THAT'S ONE OF YOUR CHARMS
YOU'RE SOMEWHAT STUPID AND YOU ENJOY SELF-INDULGANCE,
PAT
OH YEAH!
HERE, THIS IS FOR YOU.
HMMM?
IT'S A THANK YOU GIFT FOR TAGGING ALONG WITH ME TO BUY THE PRE-SENT

THANKS! HOW DOES IT LOOK?
EAR -RINGS?
IT WAS JUST A THOUGHT THAT,
"THIS WOULD REALLY SUIT NINA!" SO I BOUGHT IT
.....
.....
SO THAT'S WHY I BOUGHT IT...
IT RESEMBLES THE EARRINGS BACK THEN...





AUTUMN: 14 YEARS OLD.

NINA!
THAT'S SO ADORABLE ON YOU!
BLUSH
I'M NOT FALLING FOR THAT!
ANYWAY, WE'RE OPENING UP NOW!
WOAH, THE TENSION'S RISING!
Even though I'm just a dwarf.
STRUGGLE
STRUGGLE

IMPATIENT
TRULY!
YOU--
YOU'RE TOO CLOSE!!
IF I DON'T GET THIS CLOSE, I WON'T BE ABLE TO FAKE A KISS!
I DON'T CARE, JUST GET IT OVER WITH!
THAT'S NOT MY PROBLEM!
EH?
SLIP
EH?

SFX KISS
HAHA
HAHA
AHAHA
HAHA
HAHA
2-6

YUURI, YOU'RE THE WORST!
IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU --
YOU'RE THE ONE TO BLAME HERE!
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!

YUU--
SFX: SLAM
PUNCH
YOU IDIOT!
RURI-CHAN?
SLAM

.....
WHISPER
WHISPER

WAIT A MINUTE ...

SORRY NINA.
I MADE YOU GO THROUGH AN UNPLEASANT SITUATION.

WHA
DO YOU REALLY NOT LIKE ME THAT MUCH?!
WHY THE HECK ARE YOU CRYING SO MUCH CAUSE OF IT?!
THE MATRY -OSHKA!!

I GAVE IT TO YOU, DIDN'T I?!

SUMMER: 10 YEARS OLD.

SO YUURI, I HEARD YOU WERE REJECTED AGAIN YESTER-DAY?
HMMM?
OH, YOU MEAN BY MII-CHAN?
YEAH, WHEN I CONFESSED, SHE SAID "YOU'RE FULL OF LIES"
WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?
THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO KNOW--
ANY-HOW-!
WHAT'S THIS?

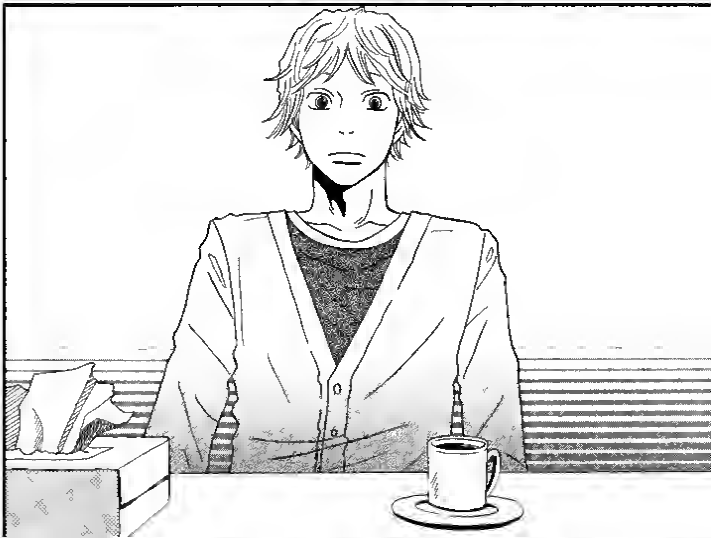
IT'S A MATRY-OSHKA. THEY'RE RUSSIAN DOLLS.
THEY'RE PRETTY INTERESTING ONES TOO
SEE?
YOU TRY OPENING THEM UP TOO, YUURI.
COOL!
PLOP

"NIINA" IS HOW YOU WOULD PRONOUNCE IT IN RUSSIAN THOUGH.
BECAUSE MY FATHER IS RUSSIAN,
I WAS GIVEN THE NAME "NINA."
WICKED!
PLOP
PLOP
WOW!
HEEH~
THAT'S KINDA COOL.
"YUURI" IS ALSO A RUSSIAN NAME.
DID YOU KNOW?

YOU SERIOUS ?!
WAY COOL !!
THAT'S AWESOME!
THAT MEANS WE'RE THE CHOSEN PAIR THEN!
PLOP

WAIT HERE FOR A MOMENT, OKAY?
GOT IT!

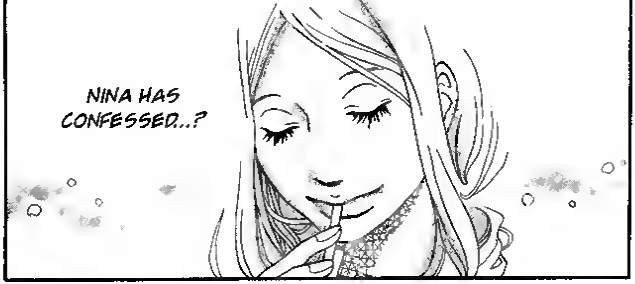
HERE THIS IS FOR YOU, YUURI!
ISN'T MY MATRYOSHKA CUTE?
OH, NINA!
THIS IS RUSSIAN TEA, RIGHT? IT'S DELICIOUS!
.....
IT'S JUST REGULAR TEA
YEAH, THANKS A LOT, NINA!
THIS IS THE PROOF OF OUR BOND!

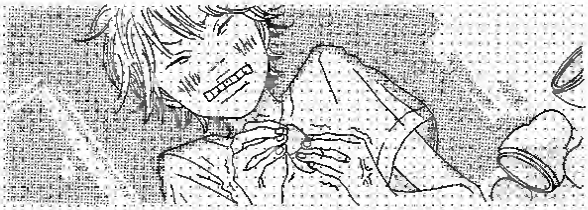


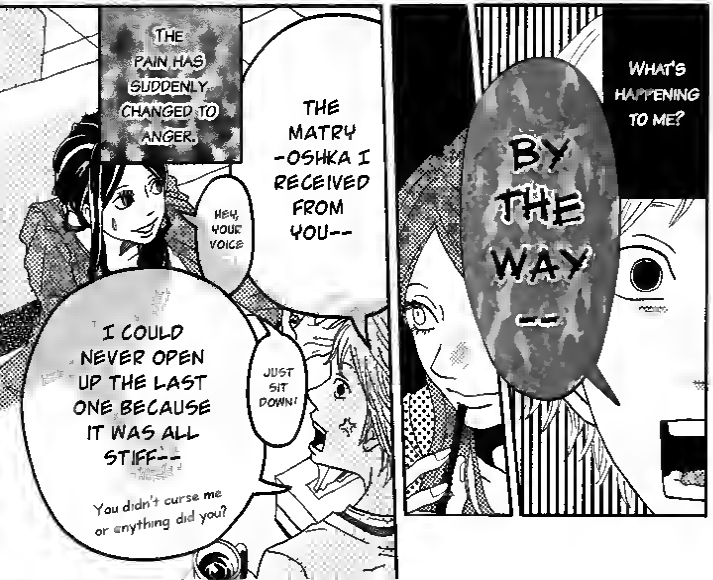
HAH! THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO TOLD ME ABOUT MATRYOSHKAS
How embarrassing...
...HAHA... YOU ONLY CAME TO MY HOUSE ONCE AFTERALL...
JUST THAT ONE TIME...
AFTER HER DIVORCE,
MY MOTHER NEVER WANTED TO BUY ANYTHING RUSSIAN...
AS FOR THE MATRY-OSHKAS,
I DON'T HAVE A SINGLE ONE LEFT...
I CAN'T BELIEVE I FORGOT SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

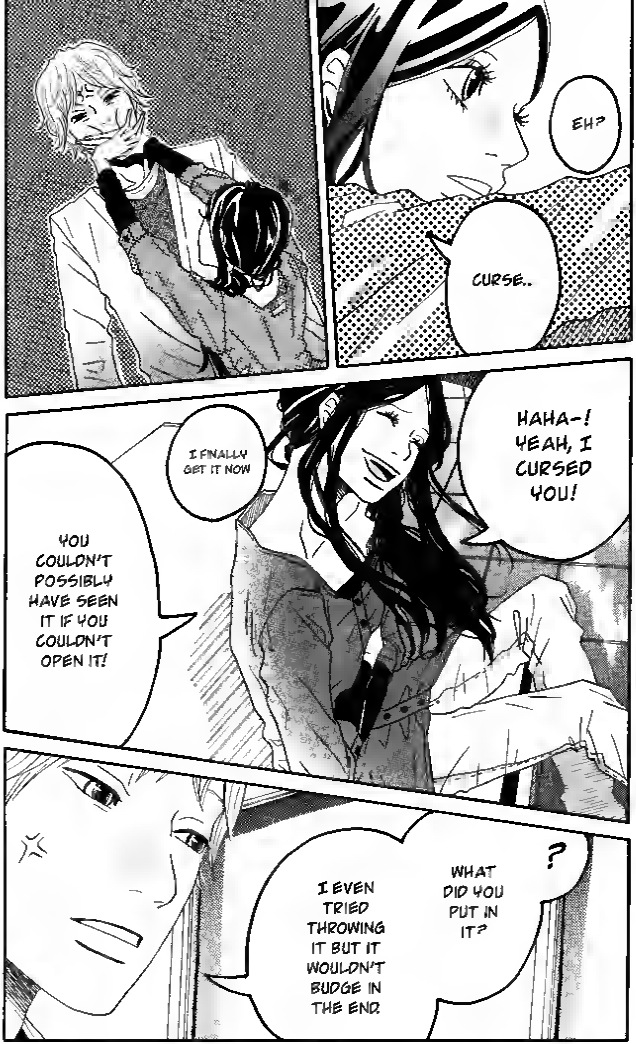
SOMEWHERE IN MY BODY, I FEEL PAIN...
BECAUSE MY FATHER SORT OF HAD THOSE PROBLEMS,
I'M SOME-WHAT AFRAID OF FALLING IN LOVE...
THAT'S WHY IT'S REALLY AN HONOUR TO BE THE ENERGY THAT DRIVES YOUR LOVE FORWARD,
OR THE ENERGY THAT CAN QUICKLY HEAL YOUR BROKEN HEART
BESIDES, I'VE ONLY CONFESSED ONCE IN ALL MY LIFE.

...WHAT?!
SL
AM

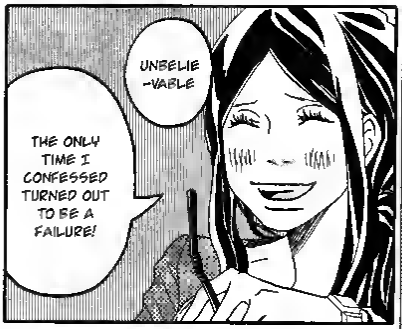

NINA HAS CONFESSED...?




THE PAIN HAS SUDDENLY CHANGED TO ANGER.
HEY, YOUR VOICE
THE MATRY -OSHKA I RECEIVED FROM YOU--
I COULD NEVER OPEN UP THE LAST ONE BECAUSE IT WAS ALL STIFF--
JUST SIT DOWN!
You didn't curse me or anything did you?
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?
BY THE WAY --

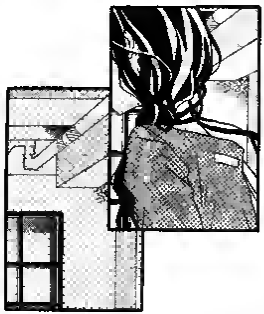

EH?
CURSE..
HAHA-! YEAH, I CURSED YOU!
I FINALLY GET IT NOW
YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE SEEN IT IF YOU COULDN'T OPEN IT!
WHAT DID YOU PUT IN IT?
?
I EVEN TRIED THROWING IT BUT IT WOULDN'T BUDGE IN THE END

I SEE .
.....
"I LOVE YOU"
I WROTE THAT ON PAPER AND PUT IT INSIDE


UNBELIE
-VABLE
THE ONLY TIME I CONFESSED TURNED OUT TO BE A FAILURE!

REALLY, I HAVE THE WORST LUCK IN LOVE
AH-!
LOOK AT THE TIME!

I HAVE TO LEAVE FOR WORK NOW...
SORRY ABOUT THAT...



NINA,

I WONDER IF EVEN NOW...
DO YOU STILL LIKE ME...?
WOULD YOU STILL LIKE SOMEONE WHO CAN'T EVEN KEEP A RELATIONSHIP FOR MORE THAN HALF A YEAR?
SOMEONE LIKE ME?
GUESS THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE, HUH
EXCUSE ME--

EH?
ME?
UM, YES..
THE PERSON YOU WERE WITH RIGHT NOW,
WAS SHE YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?
NO
NOT AT ALL SHE WAS JUST A FRIEND.
THEN...
SHE'S SO CUTE!
ARE YOU SEEING ANYONE ELSE ..?
NO, WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS--
I'VE ALWAYS LIKED YOU!
PLEASE GO OUT WITH ME!

SORRY, NO CAN DO!

I SAID THAT I LIKE ALL GIRLS, RIGHT?
BUT EVEN SO,
SORRY.

"I LIKE ALL GIRLS" IS THE SAME AS SAYING "I DON'T NOT LIKE GIRLS".

I THINK A TELEVISION PROGRAM SAID SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

IF I LOOK BACK AT IT NOW,

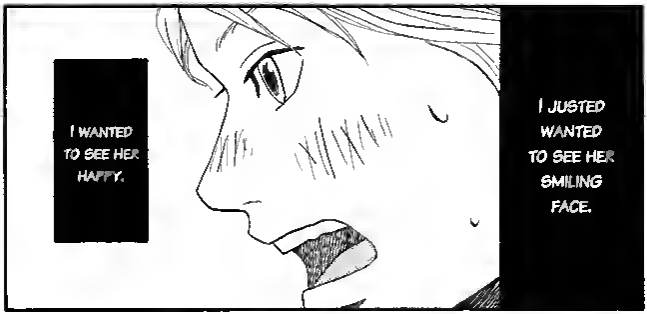
IT WAS ALWAYS FULL OF APOLOGIES, MY RELATIONSHIPS...

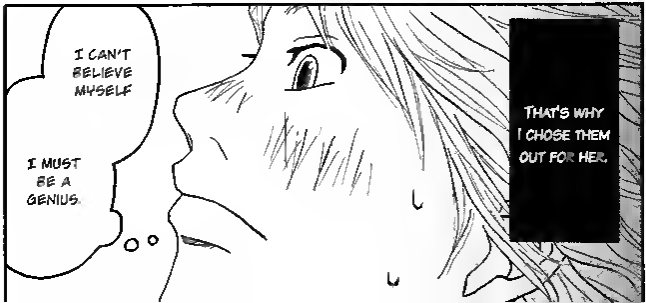
NAMES I DIDN'T KNOW OR BEAUTY ONLY SKIN DEEP.

BUT NOW I WONDER.

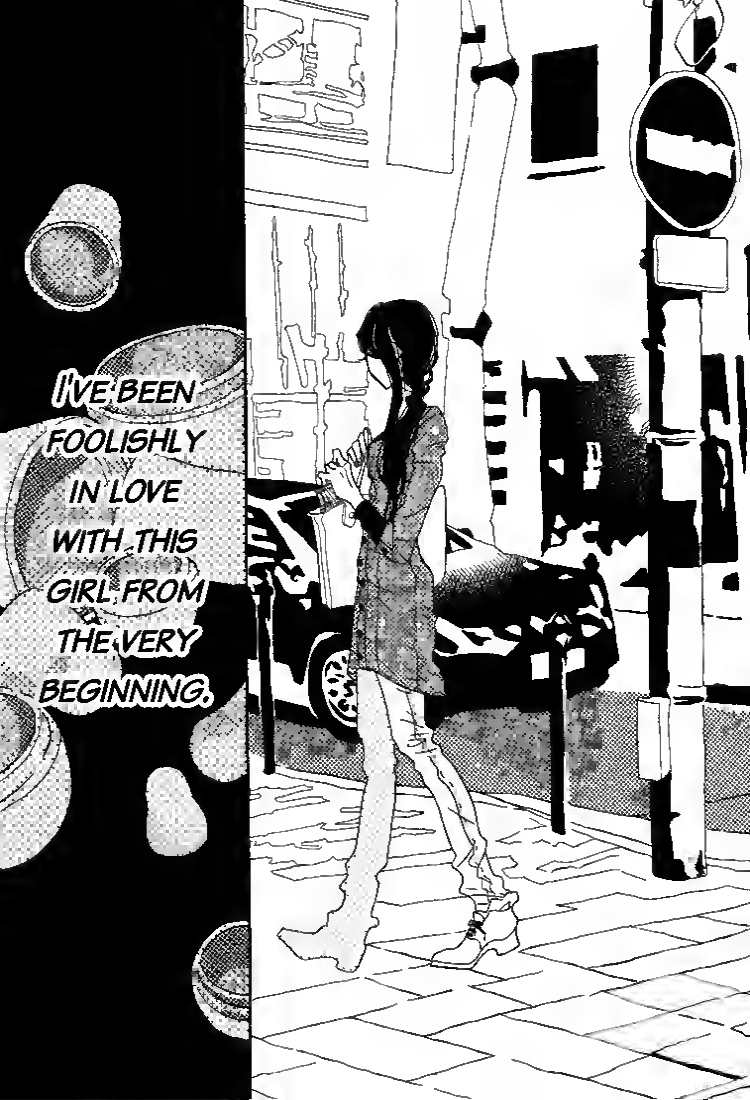
Why was it before,
That I started to feel anguished?
And during Elemen-tary school,
Why did I so badly want to go to Nina's house?
For what reason?

Even those earrings gave her.
It doesn't make any sense!
And wasn't it strange that a dwarf would want to seperate the Prince and Snow White?


I wanted to see her happy.
I justed wanted to see her smiling face.


I can't believe myself
I must be a genius.
That's why I chose them out for her.

A GENIUS
OF IDIOCY.
NINA!!


I'VE BEEN FOOLISHLY IN LOVE WITH THIS GIRL FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.

THE END